

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05272 131522Z

41

ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3892

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5272

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US

SUBJECT: INITIAL PRESS REACTION TO RABIN VISIT

SUMMARY: INITIAL MEDIA AND PUBLIC REACTION TO RABIN VISIT HAS BEEN VERY FAVORABLE. SENIOR GOI OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH VISIT SO FAR AND OPTIMISM RE FINAL RESULTS. ISRAELIS ARE WITHOLDING JUDGMENT AS EXPECTED, UNTIL ALL RETURNS ARE IN. RABIN RETURNS ON SUNDAY AND CABINET MEETING ON VISIT SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY. END SUMMARY.

2. ALL NEWSPAPERS , RADIO AND TV EMPHASIZE RED CARPET TREATMENT GIVEN TO RABIN, WARM ATMOSPHERE PRVAILING DURING TALKS, AND PERSONAL RAPPROT BETWEEN RABIN AND PRESIDENT FORD. ON SUBSTANCE OF TALKS MEDIA CONCENTRATE ON TWO TOPICS AMERICAN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO ISRAEL AND APPROACH TO FUTURE POLITICAL MOVES IN ME.

3. MAARIV FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE STORY REPORTS ON SEPTEMBER 12
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 05272 131522Z

MEETING BETWEEN RABIN ADN JEWISH LEADERS, DURING WHICH ISRAELI

PRIME MINISTER IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT "FOLLOWING HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND OTHER AMERICAN LEADERS, HE BELIEVED THAT MOST OF ISRAEL'S BASIC MILITARY NEEDS WOULD BE MET. HOWEVER, HE EMPHASIZED NOTHING FINAL HAS BEEN DECIDED YET." RABIN ALSO TOLD JEWISH LEADERS THAT "THERE WILL BE NO MORE SEPARATION AGREEMENTS, AND THAT HE DOES NOT THINK THAT THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED IN PEACE WITH ISRAEL..." OTHER NEWSPAPERS ALSO SPECULATE THAT "MOST, BUT NOT ALL" OF ISRAEL'S REQUESTS WILL BE MET.

4. ON FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARABS, NEWSPAPERS EMPHASIZE UNCERTAINTY REGARDING PARTICIPANTS. DAVAR (BARNEA) REPORTS THAT ISRAELIS PARTICIPATING IN RABIN'S TALKS IN WASHINGTON SENSE THAT "THE AMERICANS WANT THE TALKS TO BE HELD WITH EGYPT FIRST." BUT IT IS ADDED, "THE NEXT STAGE WILL BE DECIDED FINALLY IN SIX WEEKS, FOLLOWING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST." BARNEA ALSO REPORTS THAT ISRAELI CIRCLES SAID, FOLLOWING THE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, THAT THERE "WERE NO COMPULSIONS OR DEMANDS."

5. PERES ALSO DISCUSSES ALLEGED US COMMITMENTS. IN COMMENTARY IN HAARETZ, GOLAN REFERS TO COMMITMENTS MADE BY KISSINGER, WITH FULL BACKING OF NIXON, WHO AT TIME WAS BADLY IN NEED OF DIPLOMATIC SUCCESSES. "BUT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED YET, AND EVEN IF THEY WERE DURING RABIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, THE CREDIBILITY DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE." HARIF (MAARIV) ALSO CONNECTS US MILITARY COMMITMENTS AND ISRAELI CONCESSIONS. HARIF SAYS THAT IT WOULD BE AN ILLUSION TO THINK THAT RABIN, "WHO IS BEING RECEIVED SO WARMLY IN WASHINGTON, WILL COME HOME WITHOUT DEMANDS FOR 'PAINFUL DECISIONS'." PROMISING TO KEEP ISRAELI STRONG IS ONE THING, THE MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION OF WHICH WASHINGTON IS THINKING, IS ANOTHER. "HARIF EMPHASIZES DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ISRAELI AND US AND ADDS THAT "TO THINK THAT THE WARM RECEPTION GIVEN TO RABIN IN WASHINGTON INDICATES ANY POSSIBILITY OF AN ISRAELI-US UNDERSTANDING ON THE TERRITORIES IS AN ILLUSION. RABIN WILL BRING HOME WITH HIM FROM WASHINGTON A PROMISE OF MILITARY SUPPLIES ABSOLUTELY; BUT NOT MORE THAN THAT."

6. SENIOR GOI OFFICIALS INCLUDING MINISTERS ALLON AND YAACOB, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 05272 131522Z

IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS AT WEEK'S END, HAVE CONFIRMED THAT OBVIOUSLY WARM AND SINCERE RECEPTION ACCORDED TO PRIME MINISTER HAS HAD SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC IMPACT IN ISRAEL. THEY ALSO HAVE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS RE "NEXT STEPS" ARE OBVIOUSLY BEING CONDUCTED IN SPIRIT OF "CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN FRIENDS". THESE OFFICIALS, LIKE THE PRESS, NOW EXPECT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT WILL ALSO RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE FIELD,

PARTICULARLY AS CONCERNS MORE URGENT ITEMS.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ISRAELIS ARE CLEARLY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED
BY VISIT SO FAR, THEY ARE ALSO CLEARLY RELUCTANT TO CHARACTERIZE
IT DEFINITELY UNTIL OFFICIAL RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE. PRIME
MINISTER RABIN IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO ISRAEL SUNDAY NIGHT
AND A CABINET SESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY.
VELIOTES

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